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HARVEY
Aluminum Sales Inc.

REPLY TO DISTRICT OFFICE

20734

February 17, 1966

Mr. David Welsh, New Editor
Ramparts
1182 Chestnut St.,
Menlo Park, Calif.

Dear Mr. Welsh,

Mrs. Sylvia Meagher has sent me a copy of your letter and suggested I write you. I have written a book entitled "Whitewash: The Report on the Warren Report". It is the result of about 7,000 hours of work and is supported by about a third of a million typed words of notes, besides what is now beginning to disappear from my mind. It was completed a year ago, persuant to a contract, which was broken by the excited and happy publisher, while raving about the advance-sale indications, after what to me was a mysterious trip to Washington. Since then I have offered it to more than 30 other publishers and several abroad. About half will not touch the subject, hence will not read the book. Of those who did read it, it is no exaggeration to say most praised it really highly, singling out especially its moderation and responsibility, its convincing and reasoned tone, its interest and readability, etc. There was not a single credible adverse editorial opinion. One of the largest houses, after four readings but before the owner recalled his governmental difficulties, said this would be the best-selling book of 1966. I believe Mrs. Meagher is going to write you and that you may be more willing to credit her opinion than mine. I believe I destroyed each and every one of the Commission's major conclusions and an awful lot more, all with its own evidence and nothing else. There is unassailable proof of the ignoring, misrepresentation, distortion, destruction, manipulation and even total suppression of evidence. And I think you may find what I did with the misrepresented and suppressed photographic evidence quite exciting.

The book is now under consideration by two houses, both of which have given it tentative approval and both of which have misgivings they have not seen fit to share with me. I am hopeful of hearing more shortly. Meanwhile, friends associated with the peace movement are impressed with my work and have inquired into the cost of a private printing and the possibility of financing it. I am broke and this book has cost me between $35,000 and $40,000. In fact, I'm in debt. That's why I didn't answer your subscription mailing, which I received after seeing the sergeant on TV. Congratulations!

Meanwhile, one of the very largest magazines was interested in a 20,000 word summary until they read the book, when they found it too tightly drafted to condense adequately in less than 40,000 words. Its length is about 110,000 words. I am hopeful that if and when I arrange for publication, I can show that that one of the three parts of the book stands entirely on its own and rekindle their interest. This will mean a considerable amount of money for me and will reach a very desireable audience. Also, I think it might be unwise to make any magazine arrangement until there is more certainty about book publication, because it often happens that the publishers have lines to the magazines. None of this means I'm not interested in what you plan, for the opposite is true. I'm really just thinking out loud with you. I should, within a short while, let you know more. Meanwhile, may I ask you a few questions, assuming you might be

interested in what I have? Would you, if you find, as I think you will, be interested in serialization? Would you prefer a series of short, stiff challenges to the Commission that might be made newsworthy and could easily be sent to opposing personnel and legislators? Things like that. And, for a man who is without funds and has a heavy investment, what you pay is important. What is your present circulation - and I ask this to see if we do make some arrangement, whether it could facilitate publication as a book, which I believe to be important in accomplishing the result we both want.

As of today, I can send you a copy. I am, however, trying to keep my copies busy. If you want to read it, how long will it take?

I have not seen Mrs. Meagher's work, but I have had a sample of her knowledge, and it is impressive. Aside from hers, I have seen nothing that compares with mine, especially in thoroughness and credibility. While I am not unduly modest, I'll spare you the kind things Mrs. Meagher said other than her description of the book and "outstanding and brilliant" and that I "have seen much farthur into the evidence than others - myself included - who have analyzed the same aspect..."

One other thing makes me anxious for normal commercial publication. My book has been read by several major correspondents, one of whom sent it to an executive of his, a major paper. They are impressed and I expect a solid and respectful news treatment, which should help do what we all want.

Why I address myself to your letter: The language "...until the Warren Commission is reopened". There is, I fear, a major pitfall here. My book demands a real investigation, preferable by Congress, and entirely in public. An alternative would be the appointment of a commission of outstanding citizens, not government connected but with powers granted them to function, and with the adversary system of justice functioning. For all its defects, there is now no chance of eliciting any significant knowledge from an investigation without cross-examination. The members of the Warren Commission are too deeply committed, and it is asking too much to expect them to prove they white-washed. Likewise, there should be no government investigators, for all the agencies are complicated in the fast shuffle.

Is it possible you have connections with regular book-publishers who might be interested in my book and would bring it out speedily?

Should you read my book, if you have a set of the 26 volumes you will find virtually 100% of the source material by the extensive footnoting. The few exceptions are references to court proceedings, misquoted or misrepresented newspaper accounts to the originals of which I refer, etc.

Whether or not anything comes of this, I do want to encourage you to push ahead with your project. It is a minimum national necessity, and an urgent one. It, as I believe my book does, addresses itself most directly to the "crisis in credibility". It is important knowledge for the entire peace movement, for it documents the extent to which the government will go to misrepresent in the interest of what it wrongly considers the national necessity. One last comment, if you read my book, please bear in mind I deliberately understated for a number of reasons, one of which was because I think this is more effective and persuasive. There are many things I left out. First of all, the book is already long. Then, I do not believe the omissions are at all nedessary. As it stands, I believe my book entirely destroys the Commission and its entire Report. I find the executive editors agree with me, if their bosses do not. What more need be done?

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg